

Calendar No. 1448

77TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
No. 1401

AUTHORIZING THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN LANDS TO THE PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST, CALIF.

MAY 26, 1942.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1595]

The Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1595) to authorize the addition of certain lands to the Plumas National Forest, Calif., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

Facts with regard to the necessity and justification of this legislation are set forth in the report of the Secretary of the Interior to the chairman of the Committee on the Public Lands of the House of Representatives, which report is hereinbelow reproduced in full and made a part of this report.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 21, 1941.

Hon. J. W. ROBINSON,
*Chairman, Committee on the Public Lands,
House of Representatives.*

MY DEAR MR. ROBINSON: Further reference is made to your request of January 10, for a report on H. R. 1595, proposing to authorize the addition of certain lands to the Plumas National Forest, Calif.

There is no objection on the part of this Department to the enactment of the legislation proposed as it has been found from a field examination made by a representative of the Department that the area involved is generally chiefly valuable for timber and forest reproduction. Similar legislation was proposed in H. R. 2415 of the last Congress and this Department submitted a favorable report thereon March 1, 1939.

The present measure would authorize the addition to the national forest of lands chiefly valuable for national forest purposes within the described area, where in private ownership through exchange, under the act of March 20, 1922 (42 Stat. 465; 16 U. S. C. 485), as amended, for an equal value of national forest land or timber in the State, and where public by proclamation of the President. It prescribes that the public lands added shall be found of the required character by the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior.

The bill provides that any lands received in exchange or purchased under its provisions shall be open to location, development, and patent under the mining laws. As it does not authorize the purchase of any lands, the words "or purchased" in lines 6 and 7 of page 2 should be stricken out.

The sections in T. 18 N., R. 7 E., Mount Diablo meridian, described in the bill have an aggregate area of 8,264 acres, and 1,033.65 acres thereof are now parts of the Plumas and Tahoe National Forests and specifically excepted under its terms. The area which would be subject to its provisions is therefore 7,230.35 acres, and the records of this Department show that the public lands therein aggregate 324.16 acres and that the remainder has passed out of Government ownership under applicable public land laws, chiefly to the Central Pacific Railway Co. through grant.

The Director of the Bureau of the Budget has advised me that there is no objection to the presentation of this report.

Sincerely yours,

A. J. WIRTZ,
Acting Secretary of the Interior.